Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01

/062 W

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R 090611Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6118

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BRISBANE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY BY POUCH

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, AS, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET FLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR U.S. REGISTRY AIRCRAFT

1. AUSTRALIAN DEPTARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) HAS
CONTACTED EMBASSY REGARDING DANISH-BORN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN
THALSTRUP (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) WHO RECENTLY ACQUIRED
AMERICAN-REGISTERED LIGHT AIRCRAFT AND NOW WISHES ASSISTANCE
IN ARRANGING "TECHNICAL LANDING PERMIT" IN SOVIET UNION.
AIRCRAFT IS DESCRIBED TO US AS A GRUMMAN TRAINER MODEL
AA1B, U.S. REGISTRY NO. N6505L. THALSTRUP, WHO RECENTLY
ACHIEVED SOME NOTORIETY IN AUSTRALIA BY FLYING AIRCRAFT
FROM U.S. TO AUSTRALIA AFTER ONLY TEN HOURS FLIGHT
INSTRUCTION, NOW WISHES MAKE ROUND-THE-WORLD TRIP
INCLUDING NORTH PACIFIC LEG TO ALASKAN MAINLAND. AS
AIRCRAFT SHORT RANGE HE PROPOSES FLY FROM JAPAN TO
PETROVOLSK (PHONETIC) "ON KAMCHATKA PENINSULA" TO REFUEL
EN ROUTE TO ALEUTIANS.

2. HE HAS APPROACHED SOVIET EMBASSY IN CANBERRA AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN TOLD SOVIET LANDING PERMIT COULD ONLY BE ARRANGED

IN MOSCOW. AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES MAINTAIN THEY CANNOT ASSIST HIM WITH SOVIET CLEARANCES DESPITE FACT HE IS AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN AS AIRCRAFT IS U.S. REGISTRY. THALSTRUP HAS ALSO APPROACHED U.S. AIR ATTACHE OFFICE IN CANBERRA WITH REGARD TO PERMISSION TO LAND IN ALEUTIANS AND HIS REQUEST WILL BE PROCESSED WHEN RECEIVED IN WRITING. HE HAS BEEN ADVISED SOVIET PERMIT UNLIKELY TO BE GRANTED. HE STATES HE AWARE OF THIS BUT WISHES TO PURSUE EFFORTS AND FORCE EXPLICIT SOVIET REFUSAL SO THAT HE CAN THEN "GO TO INTERNATIONAL PRESS" WITH STORY THAT SOVIETS HAVE FRUSTRATED HIS FLIGHT.

3. THALSTRUP APPEARS TO BE PUBLICITY-SEEKING ADVENTURER WITH WHOM WE WOULD PREFER NOTTO BECOME INVOLVED. HOWEVER, IN AS MUCH AS DFA HAS MADE OFFICIAL INQUIRY WE WOULD APPRECIATE (1) DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATED TO ASSIST THALSTRUP IN APPLICATION FOR SOVIET FLIGHT CLEARANCE AND (2) MOSCOW ASSESSMENT, IN ITS DISCRETION, OF POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SOVIET CLEARANCES. WE HAVE CURRENT VERSION OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT INFORMATIONMANUAL WHICH INCLUDES SOVIET REQUIREMENTS, BUT MANUAL DOES NOT APPEAR TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF U.S. RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS CASE. GREEN

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